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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:EVENING TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, APRIL 21, 1978

NO. 16

1. WIRES

UPI - ANDERSON FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: AFTER MORE THAN ELEVEN HOURS OF "USEFUL AND BUSINESS-LIKE" TALKS, VANCE WILL END SALT NEGOTIATIONS SATURDAY IN MEETING WITH BREZHNEV. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, U.S. EMBASSY FRIDAY ISSUED ITS SECOND PROTEST IN TWO DAYS OVER SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH ATTEMPTS BY WESTERN NEWS ORGANI-ZATIONS TO TRANSMIT PHOTOS OF MCCLELLAN EPISODE.

MAJOR POINTS:

-- AMERICANS, APPARENTLY AS RESULT OF AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS, DISCLOSED NO DETAILS OF VANCE-GROMYKO DISCUSSIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF PAST TWO DAYS. MEETING WITH BREZHNEV WILL PROBABLY BE LAST IN CURRENT SERIES OF MOSCOW MEETINGS. U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THEY DO NOT EXPECT DRAMATIC RESULTS FROM BREZHNEV MEETING, ADDING THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS BEGUN WITH GROMYKO.
-- U.S. OFFICIALS ALSO SAID VANCE INTENDS TAKE UP WITH BREZHNEV U.S. CONCERN OVER SOV-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA.

-- REST OF STORY DEALS WITH MCCLELLAN AFFAIR AND EMBASSY

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STATEMENTS ABOUT IT.

REUTER - GUTMAN FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: U.S. AND SOVIETS NEGOTIATED ON ARMS CURBS FRIDAY AMID CLASH OVER MCCLELLAN INCIDENT. U.S. SPOKESMAN SAID VANCE WOULD RAISE HER CASE WITH GROMYKO.

-- HODDING CARTER SAID SOVIET BLACKOUT OF U.S. WIRE PHOTO TRANSMISSION WAS MOST SERIOUS TO AFFECT AMERICAN REPORTS SINCE SOVIET TECHNICIANS HALTED TELEVISION TRANSMISSIONS OF INTERVIEW WITH DISSIDENTS DURING NIXON VISIT IN 1974.

-- U.S. SOURCES SAID VANCE INTENDED TELL GROMYKO THAT HEART OF PROBLEM WAS SOVIET REFUSAL TO GRANT MCCLELLAN EXIT VISA. SOURCES ADDED THAT BLOCKAGE OF TRANSMISSIONS IS VIOLATION OF CSCE.

-- VANCE ALSO INTENDED TO TELL GROMYKO SOVIET HANDLING OF INCIDENT ASSURED THAT IT WOULD SUPPLANT SALT TALKS AS FOCUS OF NEWS REPORTS, SOURCES SAID.

-- VANCE-GROMYKO MET FOR THREE HOURS FRIDAY MORNING AND

AGREED MEET AGAIN IN EVENING. CARTER SAID ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD AND SALT ONLY SUBJECT DISCUSSED. TASS REPORTED TALKS IN CURSORY WAY AND SAID NOTHING ABOUT ATMOSPHERE.

-- VANCE WAS INFORMED BUT NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN U.S. EFFORTS TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT SOUTH KOREAN JET FORCED DOWN OVER NORTHERN RUSSIA, CARTER SAID. EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM SOVIET FOREIGN AND CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRIES BUT HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY UP TO MID-AFTERNOON, HE SAID.

AP - SCHWEID FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: VANCE AND GROMYKO BROADENED THEIR SALT TALKS FRIDAY TO COVER MIDDLE EAST AND FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE. U.S. OFFICIALS DESCRIBED DISCUSSIONS AS "USEFUL, GOOD AND BUSINESSLIKE."

MAJOR POINTS:

-- HODDING CARTER SAID "I DO NOT EXPECT THAT ALL SALT

ISSUES WILL HAVE BEEN RESOLVED ON BASIS OF THIS VISIT TO MOSCOW."

-- U.S. OFFICIALS SAID MORNING TALKS, WHICH DEALT MAINLY WITH SALT, WERE "NOT ONE-SIDED." THERE WAS NO DIRECT

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WORD ON WHETHER VANCE WAS ABLE TO CLEAR AWAY OBSTACLES IN PATH OF NEW TREATY.

-- IN AFTERNOON, VANCE-GROMYKO ALSO DISCUSSED SOVIET REFUSAL TRANSMIT WIRE PHOTOS. EMBASSY, WITH VANCE'S ENDORSEMENT, LODGED PROTEST WITH SOVIETS AND U.S. OFFICIALS SAID REFUSAL VIOLATED CSCE. RUSSIANS CHARACTERIZED INCIDENT AS "DELIBERATE PROVOCATION BY AMERICAN NEWSMEN." A. U.S. SPOKESMAN SAID SOVIETS WONDERED WHY EMBASSY WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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"MAKING SO MUCH OF SOMETHING THAT NEED NOT BE BROUGHT UP AT THIS TIME."

2. NEWSPAPERS

LA TIMES - JOHNSTON FROM MOSCOW

VANCE THURSDAY RENEWED CARTER ADMINISTRATION QUEST FOR NEW SALT TREATY IN TALKS THAT SEEMED ALMOST HAUNTED BY FAILURE HERE LAST YEAR.

MAJOR POINTS:

-- ALL VISIBLE CONTACTS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS, FROM VANCE-GROMYKO LEVEL DOWN TO CASUAL CONTACTS BETWEEN TRAVELING U.S. PRESS AND SOVIET OFFICIALS, WERE MAKRED BY CAUTIOUS, ALMOST FORCED, FRIENDLINESS.

-- AS IS CUSTOMARY, NO DETAILS AVAILABLE. CARTER STRESSED THAT DAY'S TALKS WERE CONFINED TO SALT. FOR TIME BEING, OTHER QUESTIONS WERE SET ASIDE. RANKING SOVIET OFFICIAL WAS AUTHORIZED TO TELL AMERICAN REPORTERS THAT AFRICA QUESTION, RAISED BY VANCE IN CENTO SPEECH, THREATENED BAD START TO VANCE VISIT TO MOSCOW. BUT THIS SENTIMENT WAS ONLY UNDERCURRENT TO EVIDENT EFFORT ON BOTH SIDES TO AVOID ACRIMONY AND GET DOWN TO SALT BUSINESS.

-- IT HAS ALREADY BEEN AGREED THAT GROMYKO AND VANCE WILL RESUME ARMS TALKS DURING SSOD NEXT MONTH SO THERE IS NO PRESSURE TO COME UP WITH CONCRETE RESULTS IN MOSCOW NOW.

-- EN ROUTE TO MOSCOW, REPORTERS WERE TOLD VANCE EXPECTED NO FINAL ANSWERS TO ANY OF HANDFUL OF DISPUTES STILL UNCLASSIFIED

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BLOCKING TREATY. RATHER, THEY WERE TOLD VANCE HOPED DISCUSS ISSUES CALMLY AND DISPASSIONATELY IN HOPE OF ERASING

RANCOROUS TONE OF LAST YEAR. EVEN IF NO CONCRETE PRO-

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GRESS AT ALL, VANCE WOULD REGARD IT AS IMPORTANT IF
"TONE" OF MEETINGS WAS IMPROVED.

3. NETWORKS
NBC
ANCHOR: THE SOVIET UNION SAID THE PLANE HAD PENETRATED
DEEP OVER SOVIET TERRITORY AND WAS INTERCEPTED ONLY AFTER
ATTEMPTS TO GET THE PILOT TO LAND AT A NEARBY AIR FIELD
FAILED.

VALERIANI IN MOSCOW: OFFICIALS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE INCIDENT THROUGH NEWS REPORTS AND
THEY CALLED THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY TO FIND OUT IF
THERE WERE ANY AMERICANS INVOLVED. SOUTH KOREA DOESN'T
HAVE ANY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND
SO THERE IS NO SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY HERE. SOVIET OFFI-
CIALS CALLED BACK TO SAY THAT THERE WERE NO AMERICANS
ABOARD THE PLANE AND TO CONFIRM THAT TWO PEOPLE HAD BEEN
KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED. THE RUSSIANS ALSO OFFERED TO
ALLOW AN AMERICAN CIVILIAN PLANE TO FLY TO MURMANSK TO
PICK UP THE REMAINING PASSENGERS AND STATE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE SAY
THAT WILL PROBABLY HAPPEN. THIS IS NOT THE KIND OF A
STORY THAT SOVIET NEWS ORGANIZATIONS USUALLY REPORT
ABOUT AND SO AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE
HAVEN'T EVEN LEARNED OF THE INCIDENT YET.

ABC

NOTHING FROM DUNSMORE.

CBS
UNCLASSIFIED

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ANCHOR ROGER MUDD: GOOD EVENING, A SOUTH KOREAN PASSENGER
JET IS DOWN ON A FROZEN LAKE 600 MILES NORTH OF MOSCOW
TONIGHT, FORCED FROM THE SKY BY SOVIET FIGHTERS. THE
PLANES PASSENGERS AND CREW ARE IN A NEARBY TOWN. THE JET
WAS FLYING THE POLAR ROUTE FROM PARIS TO SEOUL WITH A
REFUELING STOP IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, BUT LAST EVENING
IT APPARENTLY STRAYED INTO SOVIET AIR SPACE AND AFTER
REPORTEDLY BEING FIRED UPON LANDED ON A LAKE NEAR THE
TOWN OF KEM. THE PLANE WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED. WE HAVE
TWO REPORTS BEGINNING WITH BERNARD KALB IN MOSCOW.

BERNARD KALB IN MOSCOW: THE WAY WAS CLEARED TONIGHT FOR
AN AMERICAN AIRLIFT OF THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF THE
DOWNED SOUTH KOREAN AIRLINER 7O7. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

HERE SAID THE RUSSIANS HAD AUTHORIZED A CIVILIAN PLANE TO
CARRY OUT SUCH A MISSION; THIS IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER
U.S. REQUEST THAT THE RUSSIANS PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION

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IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT. U.S. OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. WOULD SEND A PLANE TO MURMANSK AS AUTHORIZED BY THE RUSSIANS TO PICK UP THE PASSENGERS AND CREW. THE RUSSIANS REPORTED THAT OF THE 97 PASSENGERS ABOARD THE PLANE, TWO HAD DIED AND ANOTHER TWO INJURED. NO AMERICANS WERE ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT. U.S. SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID THAT SECRETARY VANCE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN DISCUSSING THIS INCIDENT WITH THE RUSSIANS; THAT THE BASIC DECISIONS HAD BEEN REACHED IN WASHINGTON AND THAT THE MATTER HAD NOT BEEN RAISED BY VANCE DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS DURING A SECOND DAY OF TALKS ON AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT.

MARVIN KALB IN WASHINGTON: WEIRD - THAT'S THE WORD U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIALS ARE NOW USING TO DESCRIBE THIS INCIDENT WHICH COMES AT A BAD TIME IN THAT IT MAY COMPLICATE SECRETARY VANCE'S DELICATE MISSION TO MOSCOW. U.S. INFORMATION IS ADMITTEDLY FRAGMENTARY BUT SOUTH KOREA, WHICH MAINTAINS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, ASKED WASHINGTON TO SERVE AS A GO-BETWEEN. THE U.S. QUICKLY ACCEPTED THAT CHALLENGE AND GOT SOME ANSWERS FROM MOSCOW.

TOM RESTON: THE SOVIET UNION HAS INFORMED THE UNITED STATES THAT THE PLANE HAD BEEN SIGNALED TO LAND BUT TOOK "EVASIVE ACTION" AND THEREFORE THAT ITS LANDING HAD BEEN "ABNORMAL."

M. KALB: RESTON SUGGESTED THAT THE PLANE MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A HIJACKING ATTEMPT. THE SPOKES-MAN WAS ASKED IF THE RUSSIANS HAD ACTUALLY SHOT AT THE AIRCRAFT.

RESTON: WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTILE ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST THE PLANE. SO FAR AS I KNOW, THIS WAS A NORMAL COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PASSENGER FLIGHT AND I KNOW OF NO INTELLIGENCE CONNECTION WHATSOEVER.

M. KALB: RESTON WAS DELIBERATELY CAUTIOUS ON THAT POINT, REFLECTING STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERN ABOUT THE DELICATE STATE OF SECRETARY VANCE'S NEGOTIATION IN MOSCOW, BUT NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI WAS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD REPORTERS STRAIGHT OUT THAT THE RUSSIANS DID SHOOT AT THE PLANE AND PRESUMABLY THAT IS WHAT FORCED IT DOWN.

PRECEDING TWO PIECES WERE FOLLOWED BY FILM SHOTS OF IRINA MC CLELLAN AT EMBASSY FENCE IN MOSCOW. ANCHORMAN SAID FILM WAS GOTTEN OUT TO LONDON DESPITE SOVIET BLACKOUT OF TRANSMISSION. FILM SHOWED LONG SEQUENCE OF POLICE GRAPPLING WITH MC CLELLAN, THEN MARCHING HER FORCIBLY

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ALONG SIDEWALK AS SHE STRUGGLED AND SHOUTED. ALSO SHOWN
WAS FRIEND OF MC CLELLAN WHO TRIED TO HELP HER AND WAS
SHOVED AWAY BY RUSSIAN POLICEMAN. CHRISTOPHER

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